

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01915 301441Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /073 W
-----013155 301444Z /64

O 301334Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8525
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I K A 1915

FOR MOOSE, MAYNES, AND YOUNG FROM MCHENRY

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV PORG SF WA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA; NEXT STEPS

REF: LUSAKA 1902

1. WHEN WE INFORMED LUSAKA CONTACT GROUP ON MAY 29 OF KAUNDA'S
PLANS (REFTEL) FOR A FRONTLINE SUMMIT ON NAMIBIA, THE UK
AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT THE INFORMATION BE PASSED ON TO THE
SOUTH AFRICANS AS AN INDICATION OF OUR EFFORT TO MEET THEIR
ULTIMATUM. WE NOTED THAT CHONA HAS ASKED US NOT TO DO SO SINCE
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ALL OF THE FRONTLINE HAD NOT YET BEEN INFORMED. NO DOUBT,
SOME OF THE FIVE WILL TAKE UP THE UK SUGGESTION, POSSIBLY FOR
INCLUSION IN A NEW DEMARCHE TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS.

2. WHILE WE WILL WISH TO KEEP THE SOUTH AFRICANS INFORMED AND
THEREFORE REMOVE ANY EXCUSE THAT THEY MIGHT ACT IN IGNORANCE,
WE SHOULD AVOID CONVEYING THE IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE COUNTING

ON A SINGLE EVENT. SUCH AN IMPRESSION WILL ONLY PROVIDE THE SAG WITH AN EUCUSE TO MOVE ON UNILATERALLY SHOULD A MEETING NOT MATERIALIZE OR END INCONCLUSIVELY. RATHER, WHILE EMPHASIZING OUR APPRECIATION OF URGENCY, WE SHOULD POINT OUT TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS THAT THE MEETING IS ONLY ONE PART, ALBEIT AN IMPORTANT PART, OF THE DIPLOMATIC PROCESS NECESSARY FOR US TO GET OUR INITIATIVE MOVING AGAIN.

3. AS FOR A FRANTIC EFFORT TO MEET VORSTER'S ULTIMATUM, I WOULD URGE CAUTION. EVEN BEFORE WE WERE INFORMED OF THE VOTER REGISTRATION MOVE, IT WAS ALREADY PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. VORSTER MUST NOW GO AHEAD. IF HE BACKS DOWN IT WILL BE CITED AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF SOUTH AFRICAN REASONABLENESS AND HELP DELUDE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN OPINION. IT MIGHT BE BETTER FOR US TO PUBLICLY STAT THAT THE MOVE IS UNHELPFUL (ESPECIALLY AFTER CASSINGA), CAN IN NO WAY BE LOOKED UPON AS CONSISTENT WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR PROPOSAL, AND THAT ANY REGISTRATION VERY PROBABLY WILL HAVE TO BE UNDERTAKEN AGAIN AFTER INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL. THE POINT IS THAT VORSTER AND COMPANY MAY BE DETERRED ONLY IF THEY THEMSELVES SEE THAT FOREIGN OPINION AND SIGNIFICANT NAMIBIAN OPINION LABEL THEIR CONTINUED ACTIONS AS INCONSISTENT WITH THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL AND WORKING AGAINST A SETTLEMENT.

4. IN ANY EVENT, ALTHOUGH THERE IS A TEMPTATION TO RATIONALIZE THE VOTER REGISTRATION MOVE AND TO SUGGEST WAYS TO REDUCE

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ITS NEGATIVE EFFECT, DOING SO WILL BE A MISTAKE. WE TEMPORIZED ON THE ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE BY THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL BUT OUR INITIAL REACTION WAS CORRECT. HAD THE A-G NOT TAKEN OFFICE HE WOULD NOT NOW BE PART OF THE SETTLEMENT PROBLEM.
LOW

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: SUMMIT MEETINGS, VOTER REGISTRATION
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Draft Date: 30 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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